

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 COME-00 EB-11 CAB-09

FAA-00 DOTE-00 NSA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 /131 W

----- 001141

R 181634Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6956

USINT DAMASCUS

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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EO 11652: N/A DECON 3/18/74

TAGS: ELAB, XF, SY

SUBJECT: LIFTING OF SYRIAN LABOR BOYCOTT OF PANAM

REF: DAMASCUS 0234 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: LIFTING OF SYRIAN LABOR FEDERATION'S BOYCOTT OF PANAM ON MARCH 15 (REFTEL) ENDS LAST VESTIGE OF ARAB LABOR BOYCOTT US INTERESTS DATING FROM OCTOBER WAR. END SUMMARY.

2. US FOLLOW-UP COMMENT TO USINT DAMASCUS' REPORT, REGIONAL LABATT WOULD NOTE THAT SYRIAN LABOR DECISION HAS REGION-WIDE EFFECT OF LAYING TO REST REMAINING VESTIGE OF ARAB WORKER BOYCOTT THREAT OF US INTERESTS WHICH AROSE OUT OF RECENT ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. WHILE BOYCOTT NEVER GOT OFF GROUND IN MOST ARAB COUNTRIES, SYRIANS WERE HARD-LINERS FROM OUTSET. BESIDES RAISING EFFECTIVE BARRIER TO US AND DUTCH CARRIERS ON SYRIAN TERRITORY, SYRIAN FEDERATION TWICE SENT DELEGATIONS TO BEIRUT TO PRESS LEBANESE TO FOLLOW SUIT AND GENERATED MAIN IMPETUS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ARAB TRADE UNIONS (ICATU), WHEN IT MET IN LIBYA IN EARLY

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NOVEMBER, TO ISSUE CALL FOR BOYCOTT.

3. EVEN AFTER ICATU "DECISION" MET WITH NON-COMPLIANCE ELSEWHERE, SYRIANS HELD FIRM UNTIL FEBRUARY, WHEN THEY ADVISED THAT LETTER FROM PANAM STATING THAT PANAM HAD NOT RPT NOT DELIVERED WAR MATERIEL TO ISRAEL WOULD PERMIT BASIS FOR REMOVING BOYCOTT (DAMASCUS 44 NOTAL). ACCORDING PANAM REP BEIRUT, CONDITION WAS MET BY PANAM LETTER TO FEDERATION IN MID-FEBRUARY. FURTHER DELAY ON PART SYRIANS APPEARS ATTRIBUTED TO SENIOR FEDERATION OFFICIAL'S DEPARTURE SHORTLY THEREAFTER TO ATTEND CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS OF ICATU AND ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION (ALO) IN MOROCCO.

4. ALTHOUGH LABATT HAS HEARD SECOND-HAND REPORT THAT BOYCOTT WAS HEATEDLY DISCUSSED DURING ICATU SESSION, FACT THAT NEITHER ICATU NOR ALO MENTIONED MATTER IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE (CASABLANCA'S 0188 NOTAL AND 217 NOTAL) WOULD INDICATE HARD-LINERS HAD NO SUCCESS AND THAT SYRIANS FELT SAFE IN DROPPING PAN AM BOYCOTT, AS THEY IN FACT DID WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF LABOR LEADERS' RETURN.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 18 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

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To: STATE DAMASCUS
Type: TE
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